

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)    An improvement on a strap supporting post capable of automatically winding a strap around it, comprising:

    a post part capable of standing on a ground;

    a winding mechanism arranged on top of the post part; the winding mechanism including a housing part, a shaft, and a return spring; a strap being securely connected to an outer side of the housing part at a first end; the shaft being connected to the return spring so that it is rotary together with the housing part on the post part; the strap being wound around the housing part at a not-in-use position when there is no external force exerted on it; the return spring being capable of storing up a return force thereon when the strap is pulled away from the housing part to a long stretched position, which return force will make the housing part rotate to wind the strap back around the housing part when the strap is released; the shaft having an upper connecting end projecting from top of the housing part; and

    a speed reduction mechanism, the speed reduction mechanism having a rotary member, which is connected to the upper connecting end of the shaft of the winding mechanism at a middle part thereof so as to be rotary together

with the shaft; the speed reduction mechanism having a stationary member fixedly disposed on top of the post part; the stationary member having a cap portion disposed over the rotary member; the rotary member having a plurality of rubbing bars pivoted to the middle part thereof; the rubbing bars having outward sides facing an annular rubbing surface on an inner side of an annular portion of the cap portion; the rubbing ~~bars~~ bars being biased away from the rubbing surface of the cap portion and towards the middle part of the rotary member by means of tension springs connecting the rubbing bars to the middle part;

a centrifugal force acting on the rubbing bars when the winding mechanism functions to wind the strap around the housing part thereof after the strap has been released from a long stretched position; the rubbing bars being pivoted towards the rubbing surface to be rubbed against the rubbing surface of the cap portion when speed of rotation of the rotary member with the housing part is so high that the centrifugal force is greater than force of the tension springs on the rubbing bars, thus slowing down rotation of the rotary member and the housing part of the winding mechanism, and reducing speed of movement of a free end of the strap towards the housing part, wherein the middle part has a middle cavity formed therein, a connecting hole extending through the middle of the middle cavity, a plurality of spaced holding rooms, spaced apart connecting projections, spaced apart trenches each having a connecting pole projecting therefrom, and each rubbing bar has a first working end formed with a convexly curved outward

side, a second pivotal end, a trench on an inward side, and a connecting pole sticking up from the trench, the stationary member having a plurality of elongated connecting portions projecting downwardly from the annular portion of the cap portion thereof, each of the elongated connecting portions having a securing bar formed on an outward side thereof and capable of engaging a connecting element joined to a free end of the strap, the upper connecting end of the shaft being closely passed through the connecting hole of the middle part of the rotary member, and screwed into a nut, the rubbing bars being pivoted to respective ones of the connecting projections of the middle part at the second pivotal ends thereof by means of pivotal pins, the first working ends of the rubbing bars being received in respective ones of the holding rooms of the middle part, the tension springs being passed around the connecting poles of the middle part and the connecting poles of the rubbing bars at two ring-shaped ends thereof.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)